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Message from the Mayor

It's time for the cable sports network ESPN to wake up and take its "50 States and 50 Days" tour to the Nation's Capital. As I'm writing this, I believe ESPN is in the final stages of deciding to bring its tour to our city. This comes after I questioned ESPN for failing to include the District in a national tour of significant sporting events. The network last week launched a 50-state, 50-stop tour, promoting a range of sporting events, from skydiving, canoe racing and Frisbee to NFL football, Major League Baseball and golf.

It simply makes no sense that ESPN would travel the country and invest 70,000 miles on a show about America and sports and yet entirely skip the nation's capital. This is the heart and soul of our nation. It's easily accessible from Interstate 95. We're big sports fans here. And we have a lot to show off.

The amazing story of the Washington Nationals and their storybook season in a new town and new stadium is well known. But the District is also home to professional soccer, hockey and basketball, not to mention great high school and college teams. So I called upon ESPN to revisit its itinerary. The tour, which runs through September, should include a stop in DC. I'd be glad to show ESPN host Chris Berman why DC is a special sporting town.

It is unimaginable to me that the nation's capital would not be included in this unprecedented event. Without question, the residents of the District of the Columbia are among the 88 million people who view television's most comprehensive and longest-running sports news show each month.

The notion that our city has been barred from the ESPN tour because it is not a "state" is a fragile explanation for the residents of our city. Throughout history, the nation's capital has been more than a seat of government. We are a symbol of strength and national pride. With our revitalized downtown, our surging sports and recreation programs and the destination of choice for tourists from around the world, there is no doubt we should be a part of this phenomenal opportunity.

Every summer the District overflows with a variety of festivals and sporting events for our residents and tourists. This summer we will host the Legg Mason Tennis Classic. The Washington International Horse Show will be held at the MCI Center in October. And there will be plenty of time this summer to catch a Major League Baseball game with our Washington Nationals at RFK stadium.

In the end, I truly believe the "50 States and 50 Days" tour would not be complete without a visit to the nation's capital.



AGENCY WEBSITES

Office of Tax and
Revenue

Department of Parks and
Recreation

Department of
Employment Services

Metropolitan Police
Department

Office of Boards and
Commissions

Commission on the Arts
and Humanities

Department of Human
Services

LINKS TO OTHER WEBSITES

Hands on DC

DC Convention and
Tourism

DC Public Library

Meeting Critical Local Transportation Needs

Last week, I praised members of Congress for balancing critical local transportation needs with federal priorities in passing the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act which included \$143 million for bridge and infrastructure needs for the District of Columbia.

The funds for Washington in this legislation will enable the city to make dramatic improvements in mobility that will benefit people who live, work and visit Washington and the region. This represents a major victory for the city – thanks go to Congresswoman Norton and all of the city's allies in Congress for shepherding our funding through the legislative process. Congresswoman Norton's tenacity and legislative skills were once again on display during this process.

The legislation includes \$123 million for rehabilitation of the South Capitol Street/Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge; \$17.6 million for upgrade of the 11th Street Bridge and construction of new ramps for traffic access to M Street, and several blocks of new office buildings.

The legislation also includes \$1.6 million to continue construction of the Metropolitan Branch Trail for bicyclists and pedestrians along Metro's Red Line and \$800,000 for a feasibility study for a new Rock Creek Park bike and walking trail along Beach Drive. Along with the above project-specific allocations in the legislation, there were formula-based increases in the bill, bringing the District's increase in funding to more than \$300 million over the five-year span of the bill.

The South Capitol Street/Frederick Douglass Bridge and 11th Street Bridges are among the oldest and most heavily used in the nation's transportation system. Renovation of the South Capitol Street/Frederick Douglass Bridge, which carries more than 70,000 vehicle trips per day, is critical to the development of a new South Capitol Street corridor.

SEED School Wins Award

Another one of our city's innovative schools has won an award.

Last week I was pleased to announce that officials at Harvard University's Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation characterized the District of Columbia's SEED School as a "groundbreaking government initiative" and awarded it the prestigious "Innovations in American Government Award." This is the first time that any District program has received this \$100,000 award.

I am delighted that the work of the SEED School has been recognized on a national level, as I believe other cities around the country could benefit from this innovative and effective model. The SEED School is a terrific resource for our city; it helps children in challenging circumstances realize their promise and potential.

Often called the "Oscars" of government, the Innovations in American Government Award is a program of the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. Six winning programs were selected from among 18 finalists and more than 1,000 applicants for the awards.

The SEED School is the nation's first urban public boarding school, providing integrated academic and boarding services to help students achieve their academic and social potential. Founded in 1998, the School is located in Southeast and educates 320 young people in grades seven through twelve.

The Metropolitan Police Department's Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit was also a finalist for the award.

For more information on the Innovations in American Government program and this year's finalists, please visit www.ashinstitute.harvard.edu or www.excelgov.org.



BRC Alerts

DCLMPC Partnership
Works!

DCOA Spotlight on Aging

DHS Outreach

DISB DC Financial
Gateway Express

OAG Inter Alia...

OAPIA Updates

OPGD Grant Funding
Alerts

Lifting the Fees for District Pools

Last week I was pleased to announce that the District's Department of Parks and Recreation will waive entrance fees for young residents – ages 17 and under – to all District pools during general swim hours. This fee waiver will remain in effect until the conclusion of the summer season, Tuesday, September 6, 2005.

Our hope is that even more people will come out to use the city's beautiful pools. It is a great way to cool off, especially with the high temperatures we've been seeing.

In the past several years the recreation department has made significant investments in upgrading both indoor and outdoor pools around the District. During the summer, which is a time for fun and learning in the water, it is especially important that our pools are accessible to individuals of all income levels. I hope all of our youth will now be able to get out to our wonderful pools to escape the heat, have some fun and improve their swimming skills.

Georgetown Project Completion

On July 27, residents, businessowners, and many others joined me to celebrate the on-time completion of The Georgetown Project. It was truly a great day filled with much to celebrate.

People are already pouring onto the new sidewalks, shopping and eating areas. The new streetscape and updated infrastructure looks amazing and is bringing Georgetown into the 21st century. No more steel plates and no more late night construction!

This project is another example of what can happen when we undertake partnerships – this partnership included the District government, the City Council, our contractors and the members of the community. My thanks go out to the innovative "Community Relations Team" which played a key role in the success of this project. The team included representatives from the Citizens Association, the Business Improvement District, the Georgetown Business and Professional Association, Georgetown University and the Hospital, and others.

This team was the center of the project and the key to its success. I was pleased to present a Mayoral commendation to Len Levine, the Chair of the Community Relations Team for The Georgetown Project and former ANC Commissioner at this celebration. I look forward to celebrating many more happy occasions like this with other communities around the District.

Filming of *The Sentinel* at the Mayflower

On Thursday July 28, I lent a hand in the filming of *The Sentinel*, a major upcoming motion picture produced by 20th Century Fox. I was part of a scene filmed with Michael Douglas outside of the Mayflower Hotel in Northwest. This scene marks the first time a District of Columbia mayor has been filmed in a major motion picture.

I'm thrilled that another film has chosen to use our magnificent city as a backdrop. When movies like *The Sentinel* decide to feature our city, it furthers our image as an international destination. Furthermore, the filming brings new dollars to the District in the form of hotel nights, restaurant visits, jobs and other beneficial revenue to help fund our vital needs.

This film and others are part of the comeback the District's film and television industry is experiencing since the lull sustained by security measures put into place around the District after September 11, 2001. These measures limited and restricted filmmaking in some of the city's most popular locations. But I'm happy to announce the business is bouncing back.

District residents have a lot to look forward to under the guidance of the Office of Motion Picture and Television Development (OMPTD). This fall the city will be featured as the "silent star" on Fox Television's *Bones*, NBC-TV's *E-Ring*, and ABC-TV's *Commander-in-Chief*. Filming for these series took place last spring for broadcast this fall. The current box office hit *Wedding Crashers*, starring Owen Wilson and Vince Vaughn, also included several scenes shot in the District.

Clark Johnson (S.W.A.T) is directing *The Sentinel*, based on the novel of the same name, which was written by former Secret Service agent Gerald Petievich. The film stars Douglas, Kiefer Sutherland and Kim Basinger. The film was shot in May and June in Toronto before moving to the District.



District Activities



Mayor Williams spoke with congressional interns and students from Ballou High School as part of the Congressional Intern Lecture Series.



Mayor Anthony Williams took part in the filming of *The Sentinel*, an upcoming major motion picture produced by 20th Century Fox. Mayor Williams, who spoke one line in a scene filmed outside the Mayflower Hotel in Northwest, is the first District of Columbia mayor to be filmed in a major motion picture.



Mayor Williams applauds as the International Association of Fire Chiefs awarded medals of valor to six DC firefighters who rescued three small children and three adults from a blazing apartment building in Southeast last October.



On Tuesday, August 2, District of Columbia residents, businessowners, civic leaders and young people joined Mayor Williams and the Metropolitan Police Department in celebrating the 22nd Annual National Night Out Against Crime. The District's official kickoff was held at Simon Elementary School in Southeast Washington.

Community News

- [DC Firefighters Receive National Acclaim for Bravery](#)
- [Mayor Unveils Plan to Revitalize Anacostia Metro Site](#)
- [Amnesty Week: Get Current on Your Child Support Payments; No Questions Asked](#)

Upcoming Events

[View All News Releases](#)

8/6	Youth Correctional Officer Job Fair 10 am – 4 pm Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services Reeves Center Lobby 2000 14th Street, NW Washington, DC
8/6-8/14	District Sales Tax Holiday Washington, DC
8/6	Department of Employment Services Job Fair for Embassy Suites Hotel 10 am – 3 pm United House of Prayer for all People 601A M Street, NW
8/12	Department of Employment Services Apprenticeship Recruitment Fair for Electricians 10 am – 1 pm Naylor Road One-Stop Career Center 2626 Naylor Road, SE
8/26	Department of Employment Services Apprenticeship Recruitment Fair for Plumbers and Sheet Metal Workers 10 am – 1 pm Naylor Road One-Stop Career Center 2626 Naylor Road, SE

